

Message Text

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12
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

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P R 121717Z JUL 76
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6362
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGER
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY OSLO
USMISSION NATO
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 5381

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, SP
SUBJECT: SOCIALIST (PSOE) ATTITUDE TOWARD GOVERNMENT

1. WE REPORTED EARLIER, BASED ON LOW-LEVEL CONTACTS WITH THE PSOE AND A READING BETWEEN THE LINES OF THEIR FIRST STATEMENTS, THAT SPAIN'S MAJOR SOCIALIST GROUPING, THE PSOE, WAS ADOPTING A WAIT-AND-SEE ATTITUDE WITH RESPECT TO THE NEW SUAREZ GOVERNMENT. AT WEEK'S END, A MEMBER OF THE PSOE'S EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE GAVE US AN EXPLICIT APPRECIATION OF THE PSOE'S POSTURE WHICH FOLLOWS:

2. HE SAID THE PSOE HAD MAINTAINED SOME INDIRECT CONTACTS
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WITH THE KING, PRIOR TO THE SACKING OF ARIAS AND THE

CABINET CRISIS, AND HAD COME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT THE KING INTENDED TO PUSH FOR A DEMOCRATIC MONARCHY. THE PSOE, OF COURSE, HAD NO BRIEF FOR MONARCHIES PER SE, BUT IF JUAN CARLOS COULD BRING ABOUT DEMOCRACY IN SPAIN, THERE COULD BE NO REASON TO BE OPPOSED TO THE MONARCHY ON THEOLOGICAL GROUNDS. WHEN FELIPE GONZALEZ' INTRA-PARTY OPPONENT PABLO CASTELLANOS, WHO HAS A THING AGAINST MONARCHIES, TRIED TO PUSH THE IDEA THAT THE PSOE SHOULD ADOPT AN OPEN PRO-REPUBLIC LINE, HE WAS DEFEATED IN INTRA-PARTY COUNCILS.

3. THESE INDIRECT CONTACTS WITH THE KING LED THEM TO CONCLUDE THAT THE KING, IF HE CHOSE TO PURSUE DEMOCRATIZATION, WOULD AS A MATTER OF COURSE HAVE TO EVENTUALLY DEAL WITH THE ARIAS QUESTION. THEY WERE SURPRISED BY THE EVENT, AND OF COURSE HAD NO FOREKNOWLEDGE, BUT WERE NOT TOTALLY SURPRISED BY THE NOMINATION OF SUAREZ. THEY WERE HAPPY TO SEE ARIAS GONE, SUAREZ' FIRST DECLARATION OFFERED SOME HOPE, AND THE NEW CABINET WAS BETTER THAN THE LAST, EVEN THOUGH THEY WOULD HAVE PREFERRED TO SEE AREILZA REMAIN. THE PSOE HAD TAKEN A COREECT, SKEPTICAL BUT NOT HOSTILE PUBLIC LINE. PRIVATELY, THEY WERE READY TO TALK WITH SUAREZ OR PEOPLE DESIGNATED BY HIM IF THE APPROPRIATE OCCASION SHOULD ARISE. THEY DID NOT HAVE A GREAT DEAL OF CONFIDENCE IN SUAREZ, BUT WERE READY TO GIVE HIM A CHANCE.

4. OUR SOURCE ALSO CONFIRMED THAT THE USE OF SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC FIGURE ANTONIO GARCIA LOPEZ AS A PRESUMPTIVE GO-BETWEEN WAS NOT THE BEST CHOICE POSSIBLE, SINCE THE PSOE DISTRUSTED GARCIA LOPEZ. WHEN GARCIA LOPEZ HAD SPOKEN WITH THEM, THE PSOE TOLD HIM THAT THEY WERE AVAILABLE FOR DIRECT DISCUSSIONS WITH GOS FIGURES AND DID NOT NEED AN INTERMEDIARY.
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